

Manage Your Manual Tests More Effectively with Test Studio

Jim Holmes

Testing Tools Evangelist
Telerik

Stop me if you've heard or experienced this story before: you're starting off a new project, and your team doesn't have any test automation skills. Ergo, you spend a large amount

of time writing up manual test cases so that you can ensure you're getting the proper test coverage in place.

You start using Excel to track your test cases because everyone's familiar with Excel, and its tabular format lends itself to writing up simple step-validation scenarios. Soon you've got huge Excel workbooks, or combinations of workbooks, tracking hundreds, if not thousands of manual test cases.

You soon realize you're in a bad spot because:

- Versioning the Excel files can be difficult depending on your source control system. Let's not even begin to discuss multiple people working on different test cases in the same file and trying to merge the results...
- You're not able to easily track the pass/fail status of the test suite you have in Excel. History trends are even worse.
- You can't easily validate the pass/fail status or history of the manual test suite for previous releases.
- You can't easily track specific test case versioning back to builds or releases.

- Executing a large-scale test pass with these manual test plans is pure pain: you have to allocate out the test cases, and it's difficult to understand the status of the overall test run. Consolidating pass/fail metrics is pure misery.
- The effort you've invested writing those manual test cases is lost when you want to move them to your automated testing approach.
- Every manual test case requires you to spend an extraordinary amount of time setting up prerequisites for the test.

I've been there, and I've suffered through these problems and more. I once worked at a job where we had thousands of test cases in Excel worksheets. Those bullet points in the list above? I lived those!

Manual test cases are a fact of life in many organizations, so you've got to learn how to deal with them effectively. Test Studio can help you with exactly these problems: Test Studio can get your manual test cases under control by helping you bring them in to its environment where you can easily version existing cases, write new ones, execute test runs, track history, and even automate painfully repetitive portions of your manual test cases.

Write New Manual Tests, or Import Existing Ones

Use Test Studio's new Manual Test type to create new tests as you need. Make them as verbose or concise as you need. You can even add notes and images to the test cases to help ensure your validation steps are crystal clear.

Have existing tests you want to bring in to Test Studio? Use the Excel Import feature to pull in test steps from your current manual tests!

Version Your Tests

Test Studio uses simple file structures for all its tests and artifacts. It's a snap to integrate in to any version control system you use—which means you're quickly versioning your tests, test run results, and historical data. Your tests and data now tie directly to your software's codebase!

Get Stats and History for Your Tests

Bringing your manual test cases in to Test Studio gives you a tremendous win over the effort of tracking the status and history of your test runs. Your manual tests fit right in to the same reporting UX you're used to working with for your automated tests.

This particular feature is of great personal value to me—in previous jobs I've had to write custom .NET Office Automation applications to extract data from Excel worksheets, massage that data, then report it. I enjoy building helpful tools for my teams, but that effort was always sheer pain to keep working!

Ease Your Transition to Automated Tests

Manual tests will always be needed, but they should be migrated to automated tests whenever feasible. Test Studio's Manual Test type gives you a great starting point to get your features' or bugs' acceptance criteria documented. Once you're at that point you can start recording or writing test steps within that test. In short order you've got a fully automated test built off your bug report's validation criteria, or the acceptance criteria/spec you've created with the rest of your team!

Get started with Test Studio today.

[Download a free 30-day trial with priority support.](#)

Use Test Studio's "Fast Forward" to Handle Prerequisite Steps

I've suffered through many manual tests where the actual test took me 30 seconds of typing and clicking; however, the work involved with setting up the prerequisites for that test took well over five minutes.

For example, if I'm testing forum software and want to check that a user can respond to a forum post from another user, here's the list of setup steps I'd have to take:

- 1) Create original poster user (OP)
- 2) Create a forum for original poster to navigate to
- 3) Log on as the original poster
- 4) Navigate to the new forum
- 5) Create a post
- 6) Create a second user (the user we're testing as)
- 7) Log on as that user
- 8) Navigate to the new forum
- 9) Find the OP's forum post
- 10) Reply to the post
- 11) Confirm the reply has been stored in the system and renders properly

That's 11 steps, and only the last two matter for this specific test! That's an awful value tradeoff!

Using Test Studio's Fast Forward feature I can quickly automate those first ten steps – I can even make use of already existing automation! Now I can focus on the specific, granular portion of the test that I really care about.

Ease Your Manual Test Management with Test Studio

Manual tests have their valuable place in a project's overall approach to quality. The key is, as with your automation, to keep a good value proposition around the effort needed to create, manage, execute, and track status of your manual tests.

Test Studio will help you ensure you're able to focus on the valuable parts of your manual tests instead of suffering through trying to deal with them!

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